

REMARKS

First, Applicant thanks the Examiner for discussing the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 with Applicant's representatives. A Statement of Summary of Interview is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the present application. In summary, the Examiner maintains the rejections of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and the previous prior art rejections of claims 1-15. Specifically, claims 1-15 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Mochizuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,909,453).

§101 Rejections - Claims 1-15

Applicant believes that claims 1-15 satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 101.

§102(e) Rejections (Mochizuki) - Claims 1-15

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-15 for substantially the same reasons set forth in the previous Office Action, however the Examiner adds new arguments in the *Response to Arguments* section of present Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least based on the following reasons.

With respect to claim 1, Applicant submits that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least, "an emotion map for allowing the emotion or condition information of the users of the communication service to be represented as coordinate values on the basis of predetermined information axes," and "an emotion/condition analysis module for generating events corresponding to the emotion and condition information of the users of the communication service based on the emotion map," as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-7 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to claim 3, Applicant previously argued that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least, “wherein the input section maps said one of the emotion and condition information of the communication service users into the emotion map,” as recited in claim 3. In response, the Examiner alleges:

At page 3, claim 3, Applicant argues that “Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least “wherein the input section maps said one of the emotion and condition information of the communication...”

As to the above argument (c), Mochizuki specifically suggests body motions data of all the frames including pattern data related to the events that produces various emotions depend on events for example normal state, laughing state, weeping state, angry state etc., as detailed at col. 6, lines 24-34.

In response, the cited portion of Mochizuki and the cited figure only shows a map of body motions and Fig. 6b is an explanatory diagram of transition of body motions according to Mochizuki. There is no discussion of mapping emotion and condition information of communication service unit users into an emotion map.

Further, with respect to claim 5, Applicant previously argued that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least, “a coordinate value comparing unit for measuring a proximity degree of the coordinate values represented on the emotion map, corresponding to said one of the emotion and condition information of the communication service users input through the input section” and a “a coordinate value determining unit for determining at least one of a similarity and a difference between said coordinate values within a predetermined range based on the proximity degree measured by the coordinate value comparing unit,” as recited in claim 5. In response, the Examiner alleges:

At page 4, claim 5, Applicant argues that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least “measuring a proximity degree of coordinate values represented on an emotion map.”

As to the above argument (d), Mochizuki specifically teaches generating facial expressions, shape of the face with respect to time-series data transforming the vertexes in each transformation calculating the multiple vertexes and representing the coordinate values as detailed in col. 6, lines 57-65, further, it represented in “emotion map” expression data as detailed in col. 7, lines 1-3.

First, Applicant is not quite sure what the Examiner believes corresponds to the claimed emotion map. It appears that the Examiner may believe that the shapes of features on the face of the virtual CG character correspond to the claimed emotion map. Given that assumption, Mochizuki certainly does not disclose or suggest a coordinate value comparing unit that measures the proximity degree of the coordinate values represented on the emotion map. The Examiner has not identified any such coordinate values. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a coordinate value determining unit that determines at least one of a similarity and a difference between coordinate values within a predetermined range based on the proximity degree measured by the coordinate value comparing unit. Since the Examiner has not identified any specific coordinate values, certainly there has been no determination of similarity and differences between coordinate values. The Examiner never mentions or identifies a predetermined range in Mochizuki. Yet further, even if, *arguendo*, there is a determination of similarities and differences between coordinate values in Mochizuki, there is no teaching or suggestion that such a determination would be based on the proximity degree measured by the coordinate value comparing unit. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that Mochizuki does not anticipate claim 5.

With respect to independent claim 8, Applicant submits that that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least, “determining one of a similarity and difference among the users of

the communication service to be represented as coordinate values on the basis of predetermined information axes," as recited in amended claim 8.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 9-15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from independent claim 8.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 13, Applicant previously argued that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least, "wherein said one of the emotion and condition information is text information corresponding to at least one type of event required by at least one of the communication service users," as recited in claim 13. In response, the Examiner alleges:

At page 5, claim 13, Applicant argues that "Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest that the emotion and condition information is text information corresponding to at least one type of event required by at least one of the communication service users".

As to the above argument (f), as best understood by the Examiner, Mochizuki specifically suggests word dictionaries are created based on the analysis of the daily conversion to generate dictionary template, further words are classified into respective emotion states in the template for matching the analysis results that represents events as detailed in col. 17, lines 46-61.

In response, Applicant maintains the previous arguments. That is, according to Mochizuki, the input information that allegedly corresponds to the emotion and condition information is voice information, and the cited portion of Mochizuki only teaches that input voice information can be translated into a corresponding word. However, the input emotion condition information is not text information, as recited in claim 13. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant maintains that Mochizuki does not anticipate claim 13.

Further, with respect to dependent claim 14, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 5.

Further, with respect to claim 15, Applicant previously argued that Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least, “wherein an emotion map is configured based on predetermined information axis indicating predetermined emotions defined by the communication service users, so as to represent one of emotions and conditions as coordinate values,” as recited in claim 15.

In response, the Examiner alleges:

At page 5, claim 15, Applicant argues that “Mochizuki does not disclose or suggest at least wherein a emotion map is configured based on predetermined information...coordinate values”.

As to the argument (g), as best understood by the Examiner, Mochizuki specifically suggests shape data is presented in a three dimensional space for example vertex coordinates, normal vector elements at the vertexes as detailed in col. 5, lines 30-35, further shape data includes body parts, i.e., entire body in the three dimensional space particularly providing emotions and conditions pattern data as detailed in col. 5, lines 30-48, col. 13, lines 5-14.

In response, as indicated above, it appears that the Examiner believes that the face of a virtual CG corresponds to the claimed emotion map, however nowhere does the Examiner identify any coordinate values. Further, as argued in the previous Response, there is not an emotion map that is configured based on predetermined information axis that indicate predetermined emotions defined by the communication service users. The Examiner has not identified such an axis. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that Mochizuki does not anticipate claim 15¹.

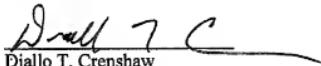
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

¹ Applicant amends claim 15 for clarification purposes.

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: January 19, 2007